

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Arkansas’ unemployment rate remains at 3.3% in October

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Nov. 19, 2024)** Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Workforce Policy and Innovation, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.3% between September and October. At 4.1%, the United States’ jobless rate also remained stable over the month.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

* Arkansas’ civilian labor force rose by 3,215 in October, as 3,092 additional Arkansans were employed. Both the civilian labor force and employment remain at record high levels. These modest gains were not enough to impact the unemployment rate or the labor force participation rate, which both held steady between September and October.
* Compared to October 2023, there are 32,806 additional employed residents in Arkansas. The increase in employment and the size of the civilian labor force pushed up the labor force participation rate by five-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

* In October, Arkansas’ nonfarm payroll jobs increased 9,600. The largest gains were in Private Education and Health Services (+2,700), with most of the hiring in Health Care and Social Assistance (+2,300). Expansions were also reported in Professional and Business Services (+2,200), Trade-Transportation- Utilities (+1,900), and Government (+1,900).
* Compared to October 2023, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 21,400. Nine major industry sectors reported job growth. The largest gains were in Private Education and Health Services (+12,300), Professional and Business Services (+2,800), Construction (+1,900), Government (+1,600) Manufacturing (+1,300), and

Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+1,300).

# Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | October  2024 | September  2024 | October  2023 | Change from September 2024 | Change from October 2023 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,412,007 | 1,408,792 | 1,384,386 | 3,215 | 27,621 |
| Employment | 1,366,073 | 1,362,981 | 1,333,267 | 3,092 | 32,806 |
| Unemployment | 45,934 | 45,811 | 51,119 | 123 | -5,185 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.3% | 3.3% | 3.7% | 0.0% | -0.4% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate | 58.1% | 58.1% | 57.6% | 0.0% | 0.5% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

# Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) | October  2024 | September  2024 | October  2023 | Change  from September  2024 | Change  from October  2023 |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1385.2 | 1375.6 | 1363.8 | 9.6 | 21.4 |
| Goods Producing | 236.5 | 235.8 | 233.1 | 0.7 | 3.4 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 73.2 | 72.7 | 71.1 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **5.4** | **5.4** | **5.2** | **0.0** | **0.2** |
| **Construction** | **67.8** | **67.3** | **65.9** | **0.5** | **1.9** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 43.7 | 43.0 | 41.8 | 0.7 | 1.9 |
| **Manufacturing** | **163.3** | **163.1** | **162.0** | **0.2** | **1.3** |
| Durable Goods | 78.2 | 77.5 | 77.8 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Nondurable Goods | 85.1 | 85.6 | 84.2 | -0.5 | 0.9 |
| Service Providing | 1148.7 | 1139.8 | 1130.7 | 8.9 | 18.0 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **270.0** | **268.1** | **268.7** | **1.9** | **1.3** |
| Wholesale Trade | 51.6 | 50.3 | 52.8 | 1.3 | -1.2 |
| Retail Trade | 146.0 | 145.9 | 144.5 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 72.4 | 71.9 | 71.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| **Information** | **12.6** | **12.3** | **12.9** | **0.3** | **-0.3** |
| **Financial Activities** | **71.0** | **70.1** | **70.1** | **0.9** | **0.9** |
| Finance & Insurance | 55.8 | 55.0 | 54.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 15.2 | 15.1 | 15.3 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **160.7** | **158.5** | **157.9** | **2.2** | **2.8** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 49.6 | 48.9 | 49.5 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Management of Companies | 38.2 | 37.8 | 38.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 72.9 | 71.8 | 70.3 | 1.1 | 2.6 |
| **Private Education & Health Services** | **222.8** | **220.1** | **210.5** | **2.7** | **12.3** |
| Educational Services | 20.0 | 19.6 | 19.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 202.8 | 200.5 | 190.9 | 2.3 | 11.9 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 71.7 | 71.1 | 66.2 | 0.6 | 5.5 |
| Social Assistance | 42.0 | 41.1 | 38.6 | 0.9 | 3.4 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **128.2** | **129.2** | **127.3** | **-1.0** | **0.9** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 13.4 | 14.1 | 13.2 | -0.7 | 0.2 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 114.8 | 115.1 | 114.1 | -0.3 | 0.7 |
| Accommodation Services | 11.4 | 11.7 | 11.5 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Food Services | 103.4 | 103.4 | 102.6 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| **Other Services** | **66.1** | **66.1** | **67.6** | **0.0** | **-1.5** |
| **Government** | **217.3** | **215.4** | **215.7** | **1.9** | **1.6** |
| Federal Government | 21.8 | 21.8 | 21.7 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| State Government | 78.0 | 77.8 | 78.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 32.0 | 31.7 | 31.9 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.0 | 46.1 | 46.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Local Government | 117.5 | 115.8 | 116.0 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 72.5 | 70.6 | 71.4 | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 45.0 | 45.2 | 44.6 | -0.2 | 0.4 |

Source**:** Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2023 benchmark. Notes: Current month’s data are preliminary; previous month’s data are revised.

# Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



5.0%

4.5%

4.0%

3.5%

3.0%

2.5%

2.0%

Oct '21

Apr '22

Oct '22

Apr '23

Oct '23

Apr '24

Oct '24

Arkansas

United States

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**Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors October 2023 to October 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**



Private Ed & Health

12,300

Professional & Business

2,800

Construction

1,900

Government

1,600

Trade-Transport-Utilities

1,300

Manufacturing

1,300

Leisure & Hospitality

900

Financial Activities

900

Mining & Logging

200

Information

-300

Other Services

-1,500

-6,000 -3,500 -1,000 1,500 4,000 6,500 9,000 11,500 14,000

For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/)

**About the Arkansas Department of Commerce**

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include the Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Workforce Services, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission, and Development Finance Authority.

**About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services**

The Division of Workforce Services has been reorganized into three new divisions within the Department of Commerce: Reemployment, Workforce Policy and Innovation, and Arkansas Workforce Connections. Reemployment administers the unemployment compensation program. Workforce Policy and Innovation administers the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, the Labor Market Information and Bureau of Labor Statistics programs. Arkansas Workforce Connections houses the Office of Skills Development, Employment and Training, Adult Education, Rehabilitation Services, and Services for the Blind.

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**About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity In the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

**About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

**About Current Employment Statistics (CES)**

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.